



New Extreme Tsunami Evacuation Zones

City and County of Honolulu

Kirk Caldwell, Mayor



INFORMATION UPDATES AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Terminology:

Extreme Tsunami (XT): Very large (Magnitude 9+) earthquake and tsunami.

Inundation Zone: Inland areas where the tsunami is expected to go beyond just the immediate shoreline.

Run Up: The vertical extent (from mean sea-level) of tsunami inundation.

Evacuation Zone: Inundation zone plus an additional buffer area for safety and evacuation.

Great Aleutian Tsunami (GAT): An Extreme Tsunami produced by a very large subduction zone earthquake located in the Aleutian Islands.

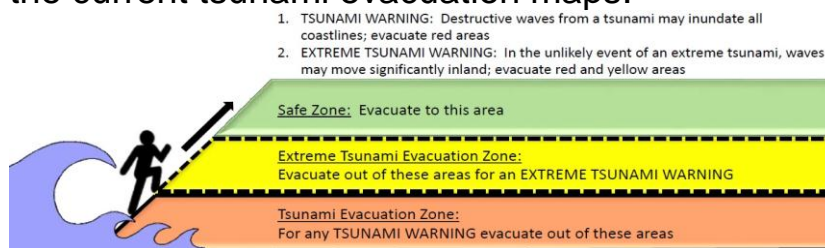
Tsunami Evacuation Zone (TEZ): 2010 primary evacuation zone where most of Oahu's tsunami warning events will occur.

Extreme Tsunami Evacuation Zone (XTEZ): New secondary evacuation zone for Extreme Tsunami events only.

Tsunami Safe Zone: Safe zones are areas outside of evacuation zones; these areas have been identified based on location, capacity and proximity but will not be shelters and may not have support staff.

Important New Information

- A new set of tsunami evacuation zones called XTEZ, Safe Zones have been developed to complement the current tsunami evacuation maps.



- The Extreme Tsunami Evacuation Zone (XTEZ) does not replace the current tsunami evacuation zone; it adds a *second* zone for a potential extreme tsunami event.
- Existing tsunami evacuation maps were developed in 1991 and updated in 2010; since the 2011 Tohoku (Japan) tsunami, there is a newly recognized risk of tsunami from a very large Aleutian event.
- The XTEZ is for events with low probability, but having high impact "worst-case" inundations.
- Vertical Tsunami Evacuation - Evacuate to the FOURTH (4th) floor or above in a reinforced concrete or structural steel building of TEN (10) stories or more. All others, evacuate inland to higher ground.

How will I know which zone to evacuate to?

- A new warning procedure is currently under development for an Extreme Tsunami event; it would be announced via traditional emergency communication means including radio, television, email, text messages, etc.

What has changed?

- New evacuation maps that include THREE (3) zones.
- A new Extreme Tsunami Evacuation Zone (XTEZ) area.
- A new Safe Zone area outside of the XTEZ area.

If you feel an earthquake, a tsunami may be coming...

WHAT TO DO:

- **DROP, COVER, HOLD** until the earthquake is over; protect yourself
- **MOVE IMMEDIATELY INLAND** to high ground and away from low-lying coastal areas
- **DO NOT WAIT** for an official warning
- **GO ON FOOT** if at all possible
- **DO NOT PACK** or delay
- **DO NOT RETURN** to the beach – large waves may continue to come onshore for several hours
- **WAIT** for an "all clear" from local emergency officials before returning to low-lying areas



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What has not changed?

- Our Message - Evacuate during a Tsunami Warning if you are in the TEZ or XTEZ zones.
- Stay Put - If you are NOT in the evacuation warning zone; stay off the roads to minimize traffic.
- Go Inland To Higher Ground - If you are near the shoreline and feel an earthquake, immediately head inland to higher ground outside of the evacuation zone.
- Maps - Tsunami evacuation maps are for public safety and do not change FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

What was the process to develop the new maps?

- The project was a collaboration with the Tsunami Inundation Mapping Project at the University of Hawaii, Manoa.
- The XTEZ maps use the same computer model as the current evacuation zones.
- The City Department of Emergency Management has and continues to conduct island wide outreach workshops to inform coastal communities of the new tsunami evacuation maps.

What else should we be considering?

- Know ahead where the regular Tsunami Evacuation Zone (TEZ) and Extreme Tsunami Evacuation Zone (XTEZ) areas are located in your community and frequented areas as a tsunami warning can occur any time of day or night.
- When you hear the Outdoor Warning Siren, immediately turn on to local TV or Radio to get emergency information and instructions.
- Take the time to learn more about tsunami hazards and know the quickest route to the nearest Safe Zone area for you and your loved ones.
- Anticipate that the phone lines may be out of service during a tsunami event and make a plan to meet your family members at a pre-arranged site in the Safe Zone.
- Getting gas and supplies during an evacuation brings traffic to a stop and puts everyone at risk. Have an emergency kit ready in advance for each family member and pet(s), and go to inland to higher ground immediately.
- Listen to local radio to learn when it's safe to return home and/or what shelters will be opened after a destructive tsunami has impacted Oahu and the danger to our shorelines have passed and/or download the City FREE App HNL.Info for emergency alerts and information directly to your mobile device.

How can the public find out if they are in a tsunami evacuation zone?

- Download pdf files from the Department of Emergency Management website at **www.honolulu.gov/dem**
- Oahu telephone books will display the new maps in the near future
- Download the City's FREE App – ReadyHawaii and HNL.Info

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Department of Emergency Management
City and County of Honolulu

Phone: (808) 723-8960 email: dem@honolulu.gov

On the worldwide web: www.honolulu.gov/dem